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Israel

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Amended Regulations for the Imports of Pets and Other Animals

2006

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Report Highlights:

The regulations from 2004 for imports of pets and other animals, which are not considered wild life have been amended in May 2006. The amendment relates mainly to importing dogs.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tel Aviv [IS1]
[IS]

Imports of Animals to the State of Israel

Ministry of Agriculture Guidance – For the Information of Tourists, Returning Residents and Other Travellers

1. Import of animals accompanied by owners

Pet dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, and rodents which are not considered wildlife, up to two of each type, accompanied by their owners, are exempt from a Veterinary Import Permit provided. Import is allowed under the following conditions:

- a. A Veterinary Health Certificate, issued by a government veterinary officer in the country of origin within 7 days prior to export is attached, stating that the animals were examined, found healthy, free from infectious and contagious diseases, and that a declaration has been received from the owner stating that the animals have been in his/her possession for at least the last 90 days.

b. Dogs and Cats:

1. Entrance of dogs and cats, younger than 4 months is prohibited.
2. The importation is forbidden, of a dog which belongs to a dangerous breed, or which is a cross breeding with a dangerous breed or a dog that shows similarity in behavior or physical characters to a dangerous breed. The dangerous breeds are: American Staffordshire, Bull Terrier (Amstaff), Argentinean Doga, Japanese Tossa, Staffordshire Bull Terrier (English Sataff), Pit Bull Terrier, Brazilian Fila and Rotweiller.
3. Each dog must be tagged by an under skin electronic chip that broadcasts at the frequency of 134.2 Khz and can be read by a chip scanner that meets the ISO terms as detailed in ISO Standard No. 11748 or in Annex A of ISO 11785. If the chip does not fit the above ISO standards, the importer or his representative must supply another scanning equipment.
4. Each dog/cat must be accompanied with an international certificate of vaccination, stating that it was vaccinated against rabies, not more than a year and not less than a month prior to shipment to Israel¹.

- c. Imports of animals to Israel as personal cargo necessitates the following: The Israeli Veterinary and Animal Health Services in Beit-Dagan (Fax: 972-3-9688963) must be notified, at least 48 hours prior to the arrival of the imported animal to Israel as of the following details: owner's name, animal breed, age, flight No. and approximate time of arrival.

- d. Animals arriving in good health and properly certified usually will not be quarantined.

¹ Excluding from Oceania, Great Britain, Japan and Cyprus. Such dogs should be vaccinated against rabies within 5 days after arrival.

2. Dogs, cats, birds, rabbits and rodents more than two of each, or such animals arriving unaccompanied by their owners and other animal species arriving with or without their owners, require a Veterinary Import Permit, issued by the director of Veterinary Services. A written application for such a permit is to be presented with a payable cheque for the fees, by a person living in Israel, not less than 10 days before the planned date of departure of the animals.
The application must include the following details:
1) Animal species, 2) Sex, 3) Breed, 4) Age, 5) Date of expected arrival in Israel, 6) Country of origin, 7) and other details and should be addressed to: The Director of Veterinary Services, Import-Export Officer P.O. Box 12, Beit Dagan 50250, Israel.
Israel Fax 972-3-9688963 or Fax 972-3-9605194, Tel: 972-3-9688986
The permit, if granted, will include all needed veterinary conditions and requirements pertaining to the referred animal.
3. Import of wild animals or animals whose usual habitat is not amongst human beings, regardless to their origins requires furthermore a written permission in advance from the Israeli Nature & National Parks Protection Authority.
Address: 3 Am VeOlamo St. Givat Shaul Jerusalem 95463 Israel.
Tel: 972-2-5005463 Fax: 972-2-5005459.
4. The importation of monkeys to Israel is prohibited.
5. Importation of horses
An application for the importation of horses shall be made not less than 60 days before their planned departure, to enable the completion of required tests and attestations to be made abroad.
6. Quarantine - Unaccompanied animals shall be quarantined in an official quarantine station for a period of 8 days or as decided by the director.
7. Refusal or destruction of animals - Animals arriving in Israel without the above mentioned documents would be returned to the country of origin, destroyed or quarantined, as decided by the Head of the Veterinary Service. The owner or the importer will be charged for all expenditures resulted from the return, destroy or quarantine of the animal, including tests, vaccinations or special treatments given, if ordered by the government veterinarian.

Chief, Import – Export Veterinary Officer

